

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01

(ISO) W

----- 015290

R 050429Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8322

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 2105

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, NZ

SUBJECT: STRIKE ACTION TAPERING

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REFS: A. WELLINGTON 2070 B. WELLINGTON 2092

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MOST OF NEW ZEALAND HAS RETURNED TO
RELATIVE INDUSTRIAL CALM. EXCEPTION IS WELLINGTON
AREA WHERE 24 HOUR WORK STOPPAGE IN EFFECT. FOCUS OF
ATTENTION HAS TURNED TO POLITICAL PROCESS WITH GOVERNMENT
UNDERTAKING TO REVIEW INJUNCTION LEGISLATION AS IT
AFFECTS UNIONS BUT ONLY AFTER STRIKE ACTION TAPERING OFF.
END SUMMARY.

2. WITH EXCEPTION OF WELLINGTON AREA MOST OF NZ BACK
TO INDUSTRIAL NORMALCY. TWENTY-FOUR HOURS STOPAAGE
VOTED BY WELLINGTON TRADES COUNCIL WILL END AT MIDNIGHT
TONIGHT. WHILE PUBLIC SUFFERING SOME INCONVENIENCE FROM
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REDUCTION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT LITTLE ELSE SEEMS TO BE

AFFECTED.

3. MAJOR EVENT OF THE DAY HAS BEEN UNION MARCH FROM TRADES HALL TO EMPLOYERS FEDERATION HEADQUARTERS NEAR PARLIAMENT. ORIGINALLY, MARCH WAS TO HAVE ENDED AT PARLIAMENT. LEADERS CHANGED OBJECTIVE AFTER PM KIRK EMPHASIZED GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO ACT WHILE UNDER STRIKE PRESSURE. KIRK HAS COME DOWN HARD AGAINST CONTINUATION OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION. IN REPLY TO JOURNALIST'S QUESTION JULY 4 HE SAID, "THE PUBLIC HAVE HAD A GUSTS FULL AND SO HAVE WE.....IT'S TIME ALL THIS NONSENSE WAS STOPPED."

4. COMMENT: WITH POSSIBILITY OF A GENERAL STRIKE BEHIND HIM KIRK IS OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO IMPROVE HIS POLITICAL IMAGE BY PUTTING SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND ORGANIZED LABOR. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IF HE IS TO SHOW THAT THERE IS A SEPARATION OF POWER BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE FEDERATION OF LABOUR. AT THE SAME TIME KIRK MUST TAKE CARE THAT HE DOES NOT OVERLY ANTAGONIZE TRADE UNIONISTS WHOSE SUPPORT IS NEEDED IF LABOUR IS TO BE REELECTED.

SELDEN

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